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Art Unit 3637

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: ROBERT D. VANDERMINDEN

Serial No: 09/895,950

Filed: June 29, 2001

TITLE: UMBRELLA TILT MECHANISM

Customer No.: 27162

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 31, 2003,

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17-24 remain in this application.

Acknowledgement is made of the allowability of dependent claim 18.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being anticipated by Schmidt. Note is made that claim 1 has been rejected in four separate Office Actions. Accordingly, it is requested that this application be made SPECIAL. (See MPEP 707.02(a))

The Examiner alleges that Schmidt shows a catch 4 mounted *in* a tubular member 2. Issue is taken in this respect. As illustrated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, Schmidt shows a member 4 fitting over the lower end of an upper staff section 2. This member 4 receives the end of the staff section 2 and has a bifurcated end comprising two legs 6. Thus, the alleged "catch" 4 is not mounted in the member 2 but, rather, is mounted over the member 2.